



Nine new cases of novel H1N1 influenza identified

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 5:20 p.m.

CONTACT:

Jim McVay, Dr.P.A.
800-252-1818
334-201-8660

The Alabama Department of Public Health has identified 9 new cases of novel H1N1 influenza. This brings the total number of probable and confirmed cases to 41, of which 27 have been confirmed.

Of all probable and confirmed cases, 26 individuals are residents of Madison County, 5 of Montgomery County, 3 of Jefferson County, 3 of Limestone County, 2 of Pike County, 1 of Shelby County, and 1 of Calhoun County.

The age range of novel H1N1 cases is from 2 to 41, with a median age of 8. Twenty-eight of the state's 41 total cases are children under 13 years of age. Of the 26 cases in Madison County, 18 are also children under 13 years of age.

The Alabama Department of Public Health has received validation from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to perform the testing that confirms probable novel influenza H1N1 cases not previously confirmed by CDC. All novel H1N1 cases in Alabama are now being confirmed by the state health laboratory.

CDC recommends implementation of measures that focus on keeping all students, faculty and staff with symptoms of influenza out of schools and child care facilities during their period of illness when they are potentially infectious to others.

Students and faculty with influenza-like illness should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for seven days or 24 hours of being free of symptoms, whichever period of time is longer. Students or staff who appear to have influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during a school day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home.

The Alabama Department of Public Health does not recommend cancelling large group events based on concerns of novel H1N1 influenza. Individuals should try to curtail the spread of influenza by realizing the virus is circulating in the population. Individuals who are ill should not attend group events

to avoid spreading the virus to others. Persons with underlying medical conditions which would put them at greater potential risk are also advised to avoid group events.

Prescription antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu and Relenza provide effective treatment and should be taken within the first 48 hours of illness.

The symptoms of novel H1N1 influenza are similar to the symptoms of traditional influenza and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with novel H1N1 influenza. Close associates should limit their contact with others for a period of seven days from the time they were exposed.

The incubation period from the moment of exposure to novel H1N1 influenza until symptoms develop is two to seven days. Individuals are infectious to others one day before until seven days after symptoms develop. Persons who develop symptoms of respiratory illness should contact their medical provider who can arrange for tests to determine whether the disease is due to novel H1N1 flu.

The department Web site at www.adph.org will be updated each day through May 15 at approximately 3 p.m. with any changes in number of novel H1N1 influenza cases within the state.